

Application No. 09/980,593

Page 6

REMARKS

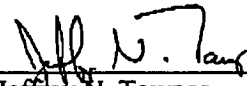
Claims 1-6 have been allowed, and claim 8 has been rejected. In this response, claim 8 has been cancelled.

Since all pending claims have been allowed, Applicants respectfully request the examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance on the pending claims.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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